

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

CAB-02 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 L-02

NSC-05 NRC-05 OES-03 STR-04 LAB-04 PM-03 H-02 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2863 PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

US MISSION GENEVA 21

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

PARIS FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: CERP-0008: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE 64907 (B) MANAMA 458 (C) MANAMA 459

1. THERE IS VERY LITTLE TO SAY REGARDING EFFECTIVENESS OF UN
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HERE SINCE SUCH PROGRAM IS VIRTUALLY NON-
EXISTENT. MOST OF OUR COMMENTS BASED ON CONTACTS WITH
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UNICEF REP RESIDENT IN ABU DHABI. WHILE WE CONSIDER HIM

BASICALLY COMPETENT, REALISTIC OBSERVER, HIS RELATIONS WITH UNDP AND PARTICULARLY WITH DEPUTY RES REP IN BAHRAIN ARE CLEARLY NOT THE BEST AND COULD BE COLORING HIS VPNEWS. WITH ABOVE CAVEATS, FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF RESPONSES KEYED TO QUESTIONS POSED REF A AND PARTIAL RESPONSES REF B.

(A) ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM - HANDICAPPED BY BEING BASED IN BAHRAIN AND WITH, AS NOTED, POOR RELATIONS WITH UNICEF OFFICE WHICH IS MAJOR UN PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY, ONE CANNOT SAY UNDP DEP RES REP IS EFFECTIVE LEADER OF LIMITED UN EFFORT IN UAE. UNDP HAS REPORTEDLY GIVEN THOUGHT TO SETTING UP SUBOFFICE HERE AS APPARENTLY EXISTS IN DOHA, BUT UAEG HAS INDICATED IT WISHES PRESENCE AT LEAST AT BAHRAIN LEVEL -- I.E. DEP RES REP. IN LARGE MEASURE THIS IS ISSUE OF PRESTIGE, BUT IT EQUALLY TRUE THAT, IF UNDP TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING HERE PRESENCE ON GROUND-- ABILITY CONSTANTLY TO PUSH AND FOLLOW-UP -- IS ESSENTIAL. THIS IS NOT TO SAY WE EXPECT GREAT THING IF OFFICE IS ESTABLISHED, BUT WITHOUT IT ALMOST NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.

(B) COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - IS LITTLE TO COORDINATE AND EVEN LESS EFFORT ON PART OF UNDP OR ANYONE ELSE TO MAKE SUCH EFFORT. FOR PRESENT UAE NEEDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ARE ALMOST ENDLESS. AS RESULT, LIMITED BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH DO EXIST ARE NOT YET IN CONFLICT.

(C) UNDP VIS-A-VIS OTHER UN AGENCIES - IN ADDITION TO UNICEF, WHO ALSO HAS RES REP, WITH LATTER BASED IN DUBAI. OTHERWISE, UNDP REPRESENTS REST OF UN FAMILY, TO THE EXTENT SUCH OTHER AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED.

(D) COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW - WE UNAWARE OF STATUS OF UAE COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW. SINCE PROGRAM ITSELF AT PRESENT CONSISTS ONLY OF PROVIDING SOME FIVE OR SIX EXPERTS, THERE IS NOT MUCH TO REVIEW. TOTAL UNDP COMMITMENT HERE IS \$1 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS, WITH SALARIES AND SUPPORT OF EXPERTS CONSUMING LARGE PORTION OF THAT AMOUNT.

(E) APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS - EMBASSY HAS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH UNICEF OFFICE AND HAS FOUND ITS RES REP MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN WILLING TO DISCUSS PLANS AND PROJECTS. IF UNDP DOES SET UP LOCAL OFFICE WE WILL SEEK ESTABLISH SIMILAR RELATIONSHIP THERE. TO DATE WE HAVE HAD NO CONTACT WITH BAHRAIN-BASED DEP RES REP DURING HIS PERIODIC VISITS HERE.

(F) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION - UNDP HAS NO PROJECTS AT MOMENT. EVEN UNICEF WITH LOCAL OFFICE AND ACTIVE REP HAS FOUND GOING EXCEEDINGLY SLOW. SIX-MAN UNICEF TEAM

DID SOCIAL SURVEY, CAME UP WITH NUMBER OF PROJECTS -- NOTHING HAPPENED. UNICEF BROUGHT IN EXPERT TO WORK ON CHILDREN'S T.V. PROJECT, SHE DEVELOPED PROGRAMS, SCRIPTS, MUSIC--NOTHING HAS HAPPENED AND SHE HAS DEPARTED. UNICEF HAS SECURED APPROVAL FOR CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND IT LOOKS LIKE THIS PROJECT MAY GET OFF GROUND -- BUT IF SO THIS ONLY RESULT OF EXTENSIVE LOBBYING BY UNICEP REP. HE NOTES THAT UNDP HAS VERY DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHY -- IT WAITS FOR GOVT TO SUGGEST PROJECTSJR IN UNICEF REF'S VIEW, AND OUR EXPERIENCE TENDS STRONGLY TO SUPPORT HIM, SUCH AN APPROACH LIKELY LEAD NOWHERE. IN SHORT, IN UAE BOTH THE EXPERIENCE TO DEVELOP PROJECTS AND THE BUREAUCRATIC MACHINERY TO PUSH THEM THROUGH IS LACKING. PERHAPS WITH OFFICE IN ABU DHABI, UNDP MIGHT MAKE SOME HEADWAY, BUT ONLY WITH A FAIRLY AGRESSIVE APPROACH -- NOT IF IT SITS BACK AND WAITS FOR UAEG TO COME TO IT.

(G) PROJECT EVALUATION - AS INDICATED THERE ARE NO PROJECTS YET TO EVALUATE.

(H) WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - UNICEF HAS BEEN ASKED BY SHAIKHA FATIMA, NUMBER ONE WIFE OF SHAIKH ZAYID, TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS. BUT EVEN IN THIS LIMITED ENDEAVOR, ATTITUDES HAVE BEEN SO CONSERVATIVE THAT MEANINGFUL ACTIVITY HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE. TO EXTENT ANYTHING IS BEING DONE WITH WOMEN, IT LARGELY INVOLVES EXPATRIATES. IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE MOSLEM TRADITIONS RE ROLE OF WOMEN GIVE WAY HERE.

2. COMMENT: CERTAINLY THER IS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR UNDP AND OTHERS TO PROVIDE UAE WITH WIDE VARIETY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS PROJECTS IN AREAS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES. WHY THIS SHOULD BE DONE ON ANYTHING OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN REIMBURSABLE BASIS IS MYSTERY TO US, HOWEVER. UNICEF SYSTEM OF PAYING ONLY INTERNATIONAL COSTS (ONE-THIRD OF \$300,000 IT TAKES RUN LOCAL OFFICE) AND MAXIMUM OF TEN PERCENT OF PROJECT COSTS (\$60,000 IN CASE PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER VERSUS UAEG'S \$1.6 MILLION) IS ACCEPTABLE. BUT FOR UNDP TO ALLOCATE \$1 MILLION OF ITS ALLEGEDLY SHORT FUNDS TO UAE (EVEN GIVEN FACT THEY TO BE MATCHED BY LIKE AMOUNT HERE) SEEMS REDICULOUS TO US. MONEY IS NOT WHAT IT TAKES TO GET PROJECTS GOING HERE. RATHER IT IS THE EFFORT AND THE PATIENCE TO PUSH A GOOD PROJECT THROUGH FROM SATRT TO FINISH. MORE OF THE LATTER QUALITIES AND LESS CASH SHOULD BE UNDP FORMULA FOR THE FUTURE. STERNER

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